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## Saguaro National Park News Release

13-13

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Saguaro National Park is Hosting a Volunteer Buffelgrass Pull on Beat Back Buffelgrass Day**

*Tucson, AZ -* On January 26, 2013 Saguaro National Park is hosting an event to pull patches of buffelgrass out of our Sonoran desert around the Mam-A-Gah Picnic Area in the Tucson Mountain District (west) as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Beat Back Buffelgrass Day. It is one of 20 events scheduled across Southern Arizona this Saturday.

According to the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center (SABCC), “Buffelgrass invasion is threatening to transform the historically fireproof and diverse Sonoran Desert into a flammable and impoverished savanna, affecting both natural and urban areas”. Each winter, SABCC coordinates hundreds of volunteers to pull buffelgrass from neighborhoods, parks, and other public lands, helping reduce fire danger in the summer.

This year, Coach Mike Candrea and the University of Arizona’s Softball Team are Beating Back Buffelgrass at Kennedy Park (South La Cholla Boulevard and West Ajo Way). “I’m overwhelmed by the response from our athletic family at the U of A,” says Coach Candrea. “We want to get more young people involved to see the impact that we can have on our environment.”

From Sahuarita to the Catalina Foothills, there are volunteer sites throughout Pima County who are looking for help. To see all the volunteer sites on Beat Back Buffelgrass Day and sign up to help Saguaro National Park, the Wildcat Softball Team, or to join a pull in your neighborhood, visit: <http://www.buffelgrass.org/>.

Additional information on buffelgrass can be found on Saguaro National Park’s website at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/naturescience/invasive-plants.htm>.

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